

SECRET

1 June 1955

MEMORANDUM FOR: The Record

SUBJECT : Sid Caesar

1. On 27 May, Colonel Grogan called to inform me that there had appeared in the New York Times, New York Journal and the Film News a statement to the effect that Sid Caesar had purchased the official secret files of OSS which he planned to use as the basis of a number of future TV shows. Colonel Grogan was curious about (a) the content of such files, and (b) the existence and validity of any secrecy agreements affecting ex-members of the OSS.

2. At my request, [redacted] - an ex-officer of the Veterans of Strategic Services - said he would try to discover the details of the sale of the files by that organization to Caesar. He later informed me that the organization itself, while not dissolved, was somewhat dormant and consisted of only about 100 members meeting sporadically. He learned that Caesar was apparently filling his summer replacement schedule and since he controlled the time he was able to select the shows. He apparently proposed using the OSS material in one hour TV shows of which he would be the producer. From what information [redacted] could get, the records - such as they are - were not organized in any clear documentary form although the stories of certain individuals had already been published to some extent in various ways and were fairly well known. He was under the impression that one film was now being made in Rome for completion in about two weeks based on the story of [redacted], with the scenario being prepared by Charles Pick, a Hollywood writer. Presumably there had been no security clearance obtained prior to the sale of the material. Gen. Donovan apparently indicated to the VSS that he had no particular feeling about it provided he was not connected and there were no violations of security.

3. Sometime in the future, according to [redacted] there will be a complimentary New York preview. He thought that very possibly there would soon be a luncheon discussing the sale and the productions and that he would attend.

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4. I passed the above to both Colonel Grogan and [redacted]
both of whom wished to have any further information we get.

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[redacted]
Assistant General Counsel

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OGC/ [redacted]

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1 - OGC 225 East
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